What Are the Best Hands in Poker? A Complete Guide to Poker Hand Rankings

Poker is one of the world's most popular card games, combining skill, strategy, psychology, and probability. Whether you're playing Texas Hold'em, Omaha, or Seven Card Stud, one concept remains the foundation of every game: **Poker Hand Rankings**. Understanding which hands are strongest and how they compare is essential if you want to make better decisions and increase your chances of winning.

RUNOUT POKER
WHAT ARE THE BEST HANDS IN POKER?
A Complete Guide to Poker Hand Rankings
Learn Hand Rankings
Understand Combinations
Make Better Decisions
Improve Your Game
Learn. Practice. Win.
Smarter Training. Better Results.
POKER HAND RANKINGS
1 ROYAL FLUSH A♠ K♠ Q♠ J♠ 10♠
2 STRAIGHT FLUSH 9♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 5♥
3 FOUR OF A KIND Q♠ Q♦ Q♥ Q♣ 9♠
4 FULL HOUSE K♠ K♦ K♥ 3♣ 3♠
5 FLUSH A♦ J♦ 9♦ 6♦ 3♦
6 STRAIGHT 8♣ 7♦ 6♥ 5♣ 4♠
7 THREE OF A KIND J♠ J♦ J♥ 5♣ 2♠
8 TWO PAIR 10♥ 10♦ 7♦ 7♠ 3♣
9 ONE PAIR A♠ A♦ K♠ 8♣ 4♠
10 HIGH CARD K♠ Q♦ 9♦ 6♣ 2♠
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Many beginners lose pots simply because they misunderstand Hand Rank Poker or fail to recognize when an opponent has a stronger combination. Learning Poker Ranking Hands helps you know when to bet, raise, call, or fold, making it one of the first skills every poker player should master.

In this comprehensive guide, you'll learn everything about poker hand rankings, from the strongest possible hand to the weakest, along with examples, probabilities, strategy tips, and common mistakes to avoid.

What Are Poker Hand Rankings?

Poker Hand Rankings are the official order used to determine the winning hand in poker. At the end of a hand, if two or more players remain, the player with the highest-ranked five-card hand wins the pot.

These rankings are universal across most poker games, including:

- Texas Hold'em
- Omaha
- Seven Card Stud
- Five Card Draw
- Razz (with different low-hand rules)
- Many online poker variations

Learning the correct Hand Rank Poker order is the first step toward becoming a confident and successful poker player.

Why Are Poker Hand Rankings Important?

Every decision you make at the poker table depends on understanding hand strength. If you don't know which hands beat others, you'll struggle to make profitable decisions.

Knowing Poker Ranking Hands helps you:

- Recognize winning hands instantly.
- Understand when to fold weak holdings.
- Bet confidently with strong hands.
- Read opponents more effectively.
- Avoid expensive beginner mistakes.
- Improve your long-term poker results.

Even advanced strategies like Game Theory Optimal (GTO), pot odds, and bluffing rely on a solid understanding of poker hand rankings.

Complete Poker Hand Rankings (Highest to Lowest)

1. Royal Flush

Example: A♠ K♠ Q♠ J♠ 10♠

A Royal Flush is the strongest hand in poker. It consists of the Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and Ten, all of the same suit.

Because it is the highest possible hand, a Royal Flush cannot be beaten.

Why It's So Special

A Royal Flush is incredibly rare, making it the dream hand for every poker player. Many players can play for years without ever being dealt one.

2. Straight Flush

Example: 9♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 5♥

A Straight Flush consists of five consecutive cards of the same suit.

Only a higher Straight Flush can beat another Straight Flush.

For example:

- 10-9-8-7-6 beats 9-8-7-6-5.

3. Four of a Kind

Example: K♠ K♦ K♣ K♥ 5♣

Also known as "Quads," Four of a Kind contains four cards of the same rank.

Examples include:

- AAAA
- 7777
- QQQQ

If two players have Four of a Kind, the higher-ranked four cards win.

4. Full House

Example: A♦ A♣ A♥ 7♠ 7♦

A Full House combines:

- Three of a Kind
- One Pair

Examples:

- KKK22
- 999JJ
- 555AA

A Full House is one of the strongest made hands because it is difficult to improve upon.

5. Flush

Example: A♣ J♣ 9♣ 6♣ 2♣

A Flush consists of any five cards from the same suit.

The cards do not need to be consecutive.

If two players both have a Flush, the highest card determines the winner.

6. Straight

Example: 10♠ 9♦ 8♣ 7♥ 6♠

A Straight consists of five consecutive cards.

The suits do not matter.

Ace can be:

- High (10-J-Q-K-A)
- Low (A-2-3-4-5)

7. Three of a Kind

Example: Q♦ Q♣ Q♠ 8♥ 3♣

Three of a Kind contains three cards of the same rank.

It is commonly called:

- Trips
- Set

Three Aces beat Three Kings.

8. Two Pair

Example: J♦ J♣ 8♥ 8♠ A♣

Two Pair contains two different pairs.

Example:

KKQQA

The higher pair is compared first.

9. One Pair

Example: A♠ A♦ K♥ 9♣ 4♠

One Pair is the hand players make most often.

If two players have One Pair, the kicker determines the winner.

10. High Card

Example: A♣ J♦ 9♠ 5♣ 3♥

If no player has any of the above combinations, the highest individual card wins.

Ace High beats King High.

Poker Hand Rankings Chart

Rank	Poker Hand	Description
1	Royal Flush	A-K-Q-J-10, same suit
2	Straight Flush	Five consecutive cards, same suit
3	Four of a Kind	Four cards of the same rank
4	Full House	Three of a Kind + One Pair
5	Flush	Five cards of the same suit
6	Straight	Five consecutive cards
7	Three of a Kind	Three matching cards
8	Two Pair	Two different pairs
9	One Pair	Two matching cards
10	High Card	Highest single card

How Poker Hands Are Made

In Texas Hold'em, each player receives two private cards, known as hole cards. Five community cards are then dealt face-up on the table. Your final poker hand is always the best five-card combination you can make using any combination of your hole cards and the community cards.

For example, if your hole cards are **A♠ K♠** and the board shows **Q♠ J♠ 10♠ 7♦ 2♣**, your best hand is a Royal Flush.

You don't have to use both hole cards. Sometimes your best hand uses only one hole card or even none at all if the community cards already form the strongest combination

Poker Hand Rankings in Texas Hold'em

Although Texas Hold'em has its own rules for dealing cards, the **Poker Hand Rankings** remain exactly the same as in most other poker variants.

For example:

- A Flush always beats a Straight.
- A Full House always beats a Flush.
- Four of a Kind always beats a Full House.

Knowing this hierarchy helps players quickly evaluate their hands during every stage of the game.

Best Starting Hands in Texas Hold'em

Before the flop, some starting hands have a much better chance of winning than others.

Premium starting hands include:

- Pocket Aces (AA)
- Pocket Kings (KK)
- Pocket Queens (QQ)
- Ace-King Suited (AKs)
- Pocket Jacks (JJ)

These hands often develop into strong Poker Ranking Hands after the community cards are dealt

Common Beginner Mistakes

Many new players make similar mistakes when learning Hand Rank Poker.

Overvaluing One Pair

A single pair may seem strong, but it can easily be beaten by Two Pair, a Straight, or a Flush.

Ignoring the Board

Always pay attention to the community cards. A board with four cards of the same suit or connected cards may give your opponents stronger hands.

Forgetting About Kickers

Two players can have the same pair, but the higher kicker often decides the winner.

Chasing Rare Hands

Royal Flushes and Straight Flushes are exciting, but they are extremely rare. Focus on making solid decisions instead of chasing unlikely combinations.

Tips to Remember Poker Hand Rankings

Memorizing Poker Hand Rankings becomes easier with practice.

Here are a few tips:

- Keep a hand ranking chart nearby.
- Practice identifying hands from random boards.
- Review your poker sessions.
- Use flashcards or quizzes.
- Play free poker games before risking real money.
- Train regularly using interactive poker tools.

The more often you practice, the faster you'll recognize winning hands without hesitation.

Improve Your Poker Skills with Runout Poker

Understanding Poker Hand Rankings is only the beginning of your poker journey. To become a winning player, you also need to master concepts like starting hand selection, pot odds, position, bluffing, and postflop strategy.

Runout Poker helps players improve through interactive training, realistic scenarios, and instant feedback. Whether you're just learning Hand Rank Poker or refining advanced decision-making skills, practicing consistently is the fastest way to build confidence and improve your results.

Explore more poker guides, training tools, and strategy resources at **https://runoutpoker.com/** and take your poker game to the next level.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the highest hand in poker?

A Royal Flush is the highest possible hand in poker. It consists of the Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and Ten of the same suit and cannot be beaten by any other hand.

2. Does a Flush beat a Straight?

Yes. In standard Poker Hand Rankings, a Flush always ranks higher than a Straight, regardless of the card values in the Straight.

3. What is the weakest hand in poker?

The weakest hand is High Card. It occurs when you don't have a pair, straight, flush, or any stronger combination, so the highest single card determines your hand.

4. Are Poker Hand Rankings the same in all poker games?

Yes. Most poker variants, including Texas Hold'em, Omaha, and Seven Card Stud, use the same Poker Hand Rankings, although the dealing rules may differ.

5. How can I learn Poker Hand Rankings faster?

Practice regularly using a hand rankings chart, review real hands, and use interactive trainers like Runout Poker to quickly recognize winning hands during games.